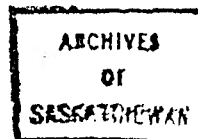


Liberal Party (Leak)
#58



REGINA, October 9th, 1907.

To the Electors of South Regina.

GENTLEMEN:

At a regularly constituted convention of the Liberals of the Electoral Division of South Regina held at Milestone on September 22nd, the delegates present unanimously selected me as the candidate to contest the Constituency in the interests of the Liberal Party in the approaching Provincial Elections. For this honor and privilege I must thank not only the delegates who were present but all other residents of the district who believe that the policy of the Liberal Party as laid down in its Platform is the wisest and safest policy for the Province at this stage in its history and development.

The political contest upon which we have entered is probably the most important one that will ever be held in this part of Western Canada. Upon its result depends the peace and prosperity not of Saskatchewan alone but of the whole of Canada as well. The history of this country as well as of every other country shows that whenever a religious or racial disturbance arises it gradually permeates the whole body politic and eventually paralyses governmental activity. As the agitation grows and develops in strength, as it is bound to do unless checked, it engages the attention of all classes of the community to the serious detriment of every industrial and commercial pursuit. It would be folly to overlook the plain teachings of history. The anti-Liberal element in the Province may protest that they have no desire to create discord and strife but the policy they are pursuing can have no other outcome. The question then which every elector must decide for himself is as to whether the practical issues at stake are of sufficient importance to induce him to join in an agitation that is certain to be accompanied and followed by the most serious results. The Liberal Party is opposed to such an agitation mainly on the ground that there is absolutely no necessity for it at the present time. The anti-Liberal Party is apparently in favour of it for the sole purpose of securing the political support of that element in the population that is easily swayed by an appeal to sentiment. Personally, I have the strongest belief in the intelligence and good sense of our Western Citizenship and I have reason to hope that when the actual facts are made known the great majority of the people of the Province will be found advocating and supporting a policy of "Peace and Progress."

During the past few years as the direct result of the vigorous immigration policy pursued by the Liberal Government at Ottawa the country has been progressing by leaps and bounds. Immigration has been flowing in, new settlements are being established everywhere, large areas of land are being brought under cultivation, railways are being built, the price of land has been steadily advancing, and in fact a general air of prosperity prevails throughout the whole province. This being the case it is of the very greatest importance at this juncture in our history that the present prosperous conditions should remain undisturbed. Yet, it cannot be successfully denied that through appeals to the prejudices and passions of the electorate the anti-Liberal Party are striving in every possible manner

to create a wide-spread agitation which if once fully started will disunite the people, breed hatred and contempt, and prevent that unity and harmony which should prevail to enable the Government to inaugurate and carry out an aggressive business policy. If the attitude of our opponents is continued we may expect before long that it will be freely advertised abroad in flaming headlines that our Province is in the throes of a political revolution bordering on rebellion. Should this occur there is no telling what disastrous effects will follow. Those in the United States and in other countries who are looking to Western Canada with a view to investing capital and making our Province their home will be driven away; the tide of immigration will be checked; the price of land will be affected; and as a general result our present prosperous conditions may be terminated. Besides, if the people residing within our own borders are disunited, if brother is set against brother, neighbour against neighbour and race against race there will be wanting among the citizens of the Province that unity of purpose and determination which are so essential to the up-building of a strong progressive nation.

The Platform of the Liberal Party as laid down in Convention at Regina on August 16th, 1905, is a progressive platform providing for an aggressive, energetic business administration. Personally and as a member of the Scott Government I fully recognise the need that exists for immediately grappling with the many important practical matters that affect the welfare, happiness and prosperity of every citizen in the Province. Notwithstanding the wonderful progress made during the past few years this country is still in its pioneer stages. Thousands upon thousands of new settlers are now engaged in making homes for themselves in every part of the Province. They require to be assisted and encouraged in every possible way. They need schools for the education of their children. Roads and bridges must be built to enable them to have easy access to markets. Branch railways must be constructed in order that the produce of every farm may reach the world's market centres at the lowest possible cost. More than that the Provincial Liberal Government should co-operate with the Liberal Government at Ottawa with a view to maintaining and rendering more effective the present immigration policy which means so much to every citizen. Surely if the Government will devote all its time, all its energies, and all its attention to these practical problems it will for the present at least have fulfilled its main duty. For the current twelve months the province will have at its disposal a revenue of nearly \$1,500,000 which must be expended wisely and judiciously in meeting the needs and requirements of the people. The proper expenditure of this large sum of money is in itself a task sufficient to engage the best attention of the Government.

The Liberal Party in Saskatchewan is not opposed to "Provincial Rights." Neither is it opposed to submitting Test Cases to the Privy Council to ascertain what our rights as a Province are. The plank in the Liberal Platform dealing with the matter is as follows:

"2. PROVINCIAL RIGHTS.—Resolved that this Convention desires to place on record its belief in and adherence to the principle of Provincial Rights, which principle has always been advocated and maintained by the Liberal Party and Liberal Governments in Canada since Confederation, and that whenever occasion demands it shall be the bounden duty of the Provincial Assembly to ascertain and maintain by every legitimate means its full legislative and executive authority under the Constitution."

It will be noted that where we differ from our opponents is as to the time when it is advisable to deal with such questions. The Liberal Party hold that this is not the time. They believe that the truest and best

Interests of the Province demand that the undivided attention of the Government should be devoted to the many practical problems of administration that directly affect the material welfare of the Province. If any rights or powers which we should enjoy have been infringed upon or curtailed in any way the Province will always be at liberty to ascertain what they are whenever the necessity arises for doing so. In the meantime we cannot lose any right or privilege to which we are entitled under the Constitution. But until an actual grievance exists, until we actually feel that a restraint has been placed upon us, there is no necessity for obtaining a judicial opinion on a purely theoretical question. If anti-Liberals had some practical suggestions to offer, if they would state what they propose to do when they obtain the opinion they seek, it is conceivable that there might be some reason for following them in their blind policy. As it is they seek merely an opinion. The Liberal Party is pledged to seek that opinion when there is a reason for doing so and when it is intended to make use of the opinion when obtained.

The Provincial Rights cry of the anti-Liberals has no practical foundation. It is raised for the sole purpose of hood-winking the electors and catching votes. It is an appeal to sentiment and not to reason. Its main object is to enable Conservatives to get control of the Provincial Government in order that they may hamper in every way possible the Liberal Government at Ottawa. During the past thirty-five years the "School Question" has been made a political football in every province of the Dominion. It has been kicked about by agitators, extremists and demagogues until all right thinking, sensible, public-spirited citizens are sick and tired of it. In our own Province we have been living together in peace and harmony for a generation or more. Prior to February 21st last, the date upon which the Autonomy Bills were introduced in the Dominion Parliament, there was no indication that the people of Saskatchewan were not satisfied with our school system. There was no agitation, no row, no demand for any changes. Everybody was satisfied with the system that prevailed. But immediately that the opportunity occurred the Conservatives at Ottawa raised a howl that was kept up till Parliament prorogued. Since then they have enlisted the support of leading Conservatives in the West who have been advised to shout "Coercion" and "Provincial Rights" in the hope that they may win to their side that portion of the community who do not read and think for themselves.

As regards the School system now in force in Saskatchewan it is universally recognised to be an excellent system. Mr. Haultain himself has stated that had he the power to change it he would not do so. Why then does he wish to bring his Test Case? And when he obtains the judicial opinion he seeks what does he propose to do with it? Apparently nothing. If our present School system were unsatisfactory, if any actual grievance existed, or if any changes were necessary, it might be possible to understand the attitude of the anti-Liberal Party. As it is every unbiased mind must be forced to the conclusion that the Provincial Rights cry has been invented merely for campaign purposes.

In the Province of Saskatchewan we have no clerically controlled schools. All schools are under full state control and are locally managed by a board of three trustees elected by the people themselves. The subjects taught in all schools are the same. The teachers are all required to pass the same examinations and take the same normal training. The text books used are identical. The Government Inspector visits and reports upon all schools alike. In brief our School system is a national system that gives every child an equal opportunity and an equal right to acquire exactly the same education as every other child. This is the system we

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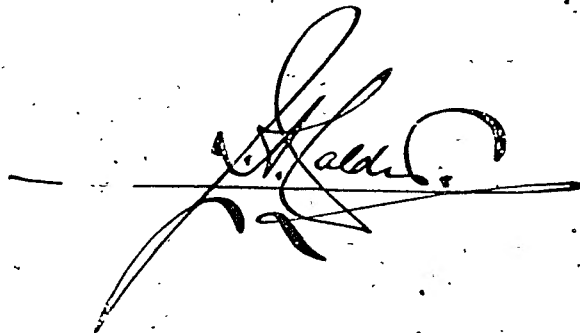
have and this is the system the Liberal Party is in favour of maintaining.

In a brief address such as this must necessarily be it is impossible to deal at length with the many issues of the day. Before the date of election I hope to be able to arrange for meetings in every part of the Constituency and I shall then have an opportunity of explaining my views respecting the more important public questions that concern the Province as a whole and the Constituency of South Regina in particular. In the meantime may I venture to suggest, in case you have any doubt as to the course you should pursue, that you withhold your decision until such time as you have had ample opportunity to make yourself thoroughly acquainted with the platform and policies of the two parties seeking your suffrage.

To my many friends and supporters in South Regina I wish to point out that the battle for "Progressive Government" is yours as well as mine. As your standard-bearer I am prepared to do all in my power to win a decisive victory. I fully expect, however, that I shall be required to spend a considerable portion of my time in addressing meetings in other constituencies. Should this be the case I must look to you to put forth a special effort in the campaign. If you do so there can be no question as to the result.

If elected as the representative of the Constituency of South Regina I shall consider it my duty to make myself thoroughly acquainted with its wants and needs. For this purpose I shall visit all parts of the district from time to time. No portion of the constituency will be neglected, and in dealing with public matters affecting the welfare of the residents of South Regina I shall always endeavour to do justice to all parties concerned.

Your obedient servant,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "J. H. Allen", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.